

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

On page 1, before line 1, please insert:

-- Title of the Invention--

On page 1, please amend line 1 as follows:

~~NEW ENZYME AND ITS USE~~ Human Alkaline Sphingomyelinase and use thereof

On page 1, after line 1, please insert:

--Cross Reference to Related Applications

This application is a national stage application of International Application PCT/SE2004/000628, filed April 23, 2004, designating the United States of America, which claims the benefit of Provisional Patent Application No. 60/320,139, filed April 24, 2003 and Provisional Patent Application No. 60/481,598, filed November 5, 2003.  
Field of the Invention--

Please replace the existing abstract with the following, which also follows on a separate sheet at the conclusion of this submission:

-- An isolated human alkaline sphingomyelinase (Alk-Smase) or a variant thereof is capable of hydrolysing sphingomyelin. Methods are provided for isolating human Alk-Smase and for preparing human recombinant Alk-Smase. Further methods are provided for the use of the enzyme for the treatment of colon cancer.--